

Remarks

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application. Claims 1-11 stand rejected. Drawings 6(A) and 6(B) are objected to. The following remarks are addressed to the referenced paragraphs of the Office Action dated May 4, 2004.

Paragraph 1 - Drawing Objection

Drawings 6(A) and 6(B) are objected to because they illustrate only that which is old, but are not marked as prior art. Drawings 6(A) and 6(B) have been amended to include the legend "Prior Art".

Paragraph 2 - Claim Objections

Claim 5 is objected to as having insufficient antecedent basis for the limitation "the end of the housing." Claim 5 has been amended, obviating this ground for objection.

Paragraphs 3 through 5 - Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claims 1-2, and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy (U.S. Patent No. 5,997,332) in view of Fumikura (U.S. Patent No. 5,839,913) and Landman (U.S. Patent No. 3,701,071).

Regarding claims 1 and 7, the Office Action suggests that Choy discloses a guide member 22 having a flat-plate-form guide part 26 that guides the card. Applicants respectfully disagree. Metal member 22 is part of latch device 18. The first vertical plate 26 cannot be the flat-plate-form guide part that guides the card, as claimed, because it does not guide the card. As

clearly shown in Figs. 2 and 4 and described in Col. 3 at lines 4-13, the first vertical plate 26 abuts the outer surface of the upper arm 202 of the plastic member 20.

The Office Action further suggests that solder pad 42 in Choy is disposed between the guide part and fastening part of a guide arm. Even if arguendo the first vertical plate 26 of Choy were considered a guide part, the solder pad of Choy is not disposed between the first vertical plate 26 and the fastening part 28.

Thus, Choy does not disclose a guide arm with a flat-plate-form guide part and a fastening part and a solder part disposed between the guide part and the fastening part. The other references do not provide what Choy lacks. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully contend that claim 1 is allowable.

With regard to claim 1, the Office Action also suggests that Landman discloses a card having fastening means disposed on the other end of the card from the contact pads for fastening the card to the circuit board. The Office Action further suggests that it would have been obvious to modify the card connector taught by Choy to have the fastening means taught by Landman. Applicants respectfully disagree. The card connector of Choy has a latching device 18 which pivots outwardly to allow passage of the card or daughter board and springs back to retain the card. Landman provides a card connector in which the card is inserted at an angle and pivoted to engage a latch on the mother board. Applicants contend that it is inappropriate to combine Landman with Choy, because the card connector of Choy already has a latching means 18, and therefore there is no motivation to add the latching means of Landman to the card connector of Choy. Moreover, even if, arguendo, it were appropriate to combine the latching means of Landman to the card connector of Choy, the latch of Landman is fastened to the mother board

(see Col. 3, beginning at line 36). Thus the latch of Landman does not disclose or suggest “fastening means disposed on the card” as claimed in claim 1.

Claims 2, 5-6, and 8-10 depend from claims 1 or 7, and Applicants respectfully contend that they are allowable for the reason that claims 1 and 7 are allowable.

Applicants contend that claim 2 is also allowable because it includes an additional feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, namely “the fastening means is a screw.” The Office Action suggests that a screw is an obvious substitution for the latch of Landman, which it is obvious to combine with the card connector of Choy. Applicants respectfully disagree. A screw allows the card to be slid into engagement with the card connector of the present invention and fastened by the screw with the card in place. The latch of Landman would prevent sliding engagement of the card, requiring instead a pivoting engagement.

Applicants contend that claim 5 is also allowable because it includes another feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, namely “the fastening part and the soldered part of the guide members do not extend beyond the housing.” Choy clearly shows the solder pad 42 disposed beyond the housing 12. The other cited references do not provide what Choy lacks.

Claims 3, 4, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy (U.S. Patent No. 5,997,332) in view of Fumikura (U.S. Patent No. 5,839,913) and Landman (U.S. Patent No. 3,701,071), and in further view of Tondreault (U.S. Patent No. 5,769,668).

Claims 3 and 4 depend from claim 1, and claim 11 depends from claim 7. Applicants respectfully contend that they are allowable for the reasons that claim 1 and 7 are allowable.

Applicants respectfully contend that claims 4 and 11 are also allowable because they includes an additional feature that is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references, namely an off-center projection or protrusion for preventing reverse insertion of the card. The Office Action suggests that Tondreault discloses an off-center projection 52 engaging a slot formed on a card 12 in order for the card to correctly engage the card connector. Applicants respectfully disagree. Tondreault does not disclose or suggest that key 52 is off-center with respect to the connector 10. Tondreault provides a key 52 with an alignment clip 62 with spring beams 68 and 70 that serve to center the module (card) with respect to the connector (see col. 5, lines 26-35).

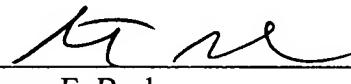
Newly Added Claim

Claim 12 is added to precisely claim an embodiment of the invention. No new matter has been added.

Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reasons and in view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully contend that the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments, allowance of claims 1-12 and issuance of Letters Patent for the subject invention. Please charge any additional requisite fees relating to this amendment and response to Deposit Account No. 50-1581.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven E. Bach
Registration No. 46,530
Attorney for Applicant
Phone: (610) 889-3697
Facsimile: (610) 889-3696